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Instead of CIA

In the recent rash of publicity about the financing of travel funds for American students, journalists, trade union representatives and other professional persons by the CIA indirectly through dummy foundations nobody seems to ask: "Where do we go from here?"

When we are through with the breast-beating not about what we did, but how we did it, we should be ready to consider doing it a different way. It is essential that Americans' participation in such meetings be insured and it is no solution of the problem just to stop CIA financing without providing a better method.

When that time arrives one way of managing these things might be considered. That would be along the lines of the British Council which the United Kingdom has conducted so well and so openly and in such a dignified manner for so many years.

Some of its activities resemble those of the U.S. Information Service, but it also provides for travel, conference attendance, and lecture tours for members of academic and professional bodies and advisory visits by British experts to various countries of the world. The funds are voted by Parliament and ministers of cabinet rank supervise the work on which public reports are made.

The Council is headed by a distinguished Board of Officers and it has centers in various countries. As in so many cases, British institutions cannot be transplanted literally to this country, but some adaptation of the British experience would be well worth considering when we are ready to make new provisions for securing educational, occupational, and professional representation by Americans in international meetings and organizations.

Why cannot Congress provide for a U.S. Advisory Council of distinguished men and women (similar to but smaller than the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO) to advise the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in the State Department on the policies to be followed, and an authorization of funds by Congress be requested by the Department for such worthy and legitimate purposes?

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